Roxbury, Feb. 9, 1877.

My dear Fanny:

At half past 5 o'clock, P. M., yesterday, I took a carriage and drove into the city to the Worcester depot, confidently expecting to greet my darling Helen and Mr. Saxer on the arrival of the New York train, because William had received a telegraphic despatch announcing their coming. Of course, I was both disappointed and surprised not to find them among the passengers, every one of whom I scrutinized, to be sure of not making a blundering oversight. So I drove home as solitary as I went, finding William and Agnes waiting eagerly to give Helen an affectionate embrace. Agnes was particularly cast down at her not coming.

I have just received your letter of yesterday, which states why Helen was de-

tained. It was as I surmised. But why did you not inform us by telegraph? It would have saved suspense and the cost of a carriage. But I suppose Harry was too busy to attend to it. He did perfectly right in keeping Mr. Saxer, as his business affairs are of paramount importance. I shall not complain, even if another disappointment should occur this evening.

It remains to be seen whether Miss Sprague will hesitate to receive Helen into her school, on account of Harold's sickness, of which in fairness she ought to be apprised. It is true, Helen has had the scarlet fever, but infection is sometimes carried in clothing. Of course, I do not believe there is remotely any danger. Perhaps it will remove all objections to keep Helen at home a few days. I will speak to Miss Sprague about her. We all think it will be more satisfactory to her to go to school half a day, than to be at a loss how otherwise to spend the time.

Agnes has just come in to inquire when Helen may be expected. I have invited her to take tea with us, and remain until Monday morning (as there is no school to-morrow), sharing Helen's bed. She has gladly accepted the invitation.

Mary Randall, of Providence, came opportunely yesterday to make William and Ellie a visit, and while they are gone to Auburn she will look after the children. She spent last evening with us, with her characteristic jollity.

Frank attended a very fine concert at Cambridge last evening. Madame Schiller was the pianist on the occasion.

Mrs. Child had a private sitting with Mrs. Wildes, the medium, who knew not who she was. The results were very satisfactory. Mr. Child evinced his presence by various tokens, giving his full name, and writing out her own name in full by the hand of the medium. Miss Lucy Os-

good also made a communication in her own loving manner. Before the sitting closed I was called up stairs from below to participate in it. Ostensibly, your mother, my uncle William Lloyd, my old partner Isaac Knapp, and sister Charlotte Anthony's cook Jemima had each a passing word for me. Mrs. Child was quite impressed by what she received, for Mrs. Wilder could have known nothing of what she communicated so minutely and accurately as from Mr. Child.

Your nurse for Harold seems to be multum in parvo. The dear little fellow is lucky in having so light an attack of fever, and his quiet temperament will prove advantageous to his recovery.

I am sorry to hear that Lucy is so ill as to be confined to her bed. Wendell must have constant anxiety about her, and so must her mothers.

Get all the rest you can. I trust Oswald will go unscathed. Love to Harry.

Your loving Father.